

KENTUCKY BOARD OF NURSING
GUIDELINES FOR USE OF PRECEPTORS
BY A PRELICENSURE PROGRAM OF NURSING

INTRODUCTION

A renewed focus on clinical practice opportunities for nursing students, and intensified patient acuity levels have accelerated current demands for clinical teaching and supervision of prelicensure nursing students. To provide guidance for programs that wish to use preceptors, the following guidelines are offered by the Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN).

ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Ultimate responsibility and accountability for nursing education rests with the educational institution and its duly constituted representatives, i.e., faculty. 201 KAR 20:310 requires program of nursing (PON) faculty to be responsible and accountable for clinical learning experiences for no more than ten (10) prelicensure nursing students at any one time. Given that the governing institution as represented by the nurse administrator of a prelicensure nursing program has the ultimate responsibility and accountability for the conduct of a program of nursing, and that qualified faculty are appointed to implement the instructional mission, then nursing faculty has the prerogative to determine and select appropriate teaching-learning methods to support student achievement of program objectives.

Faculty use of other nursing and health care providers to assist students with clinical practice experiences constitutes a pedagogically sound teaching methodology if the PON faculty exercises accountability for appropriate management (control, direction, delegation, supervision, and evaluation).

Teaching faculty who choose to use clinical preceptors are responsible for the application, integration, and enhancement of the theoretical constructs of the PON curriculum as related to the student clinical practice experience. PON faculty, students, preceptors, and the nursing administrators of both education and service agencies share responsibility for the efficacy of the clinical practice experience.

DEFINITIONS

FACULTY: Registered nurse, meeting faculty requirements as specified in Kentucky administrative regulations, employed by the educational institution conducting a prelicensure PON, for the purpose of teaching, guidance and evaluation of nursing students. (Reference: 201 KAR 20:050 and 201 KAR 20:310)

PRECEPTOR: An experienced registered nurse employed by a health service agency who assists with clinical practice experiences for PON students under the guidance and supervision of KBN approved PON faculty.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

A contractual agreement is in effect between educational and service agencies specifying parameters, conditions, and responsibilities of each party for PON student clinical practice experiences.

The contractual agreement shall include but not be limited to:

1. Preceptor job description defined in terms of role expectations and supervisory responsibilities for prelicensure nursing students.
2. Requirements for preceptor selection and training.
3. PON faculty role expectations and responsibilities for both the preceptor and prelicensure nursing student.

A formal annual evaluation of clinical learning experiences shall be the responsibility of the PON, and should include all parties involved (i.e., PON administration, faculty and students, and clinical agency administration, preceptors, and staff).

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